(b) Does not arise

**Social Security for senior citizens in the country**

568. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Central Committee of Pensioner's Association has urged Government for formulation of the National pension policy to ensure social security for senior citizens in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring a legislation or propose to replace the Pension Act, 1871 by a Pension-cum-Social Security Act to reflect the pension policy for India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal to replace the Pension Act, 1871.

**Shifting of head office of south eastern Railways from Calcutta to Bhubaneswar**

569. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa has requested the Central Government to shift the Head Office of South-Eastern Railways from Calcutta to Bhubaneswar;

whether Government have examined the said proposal, and

(c) if so, by when the said Head Office is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the administrative and operational requirements, likely dislocation to a large number of staff and severe financial constraints, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to shift the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta.

**Non-availability of essential commodities in Himachal Pradesh**

570. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report about the grim situation in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh due to non-availability of essential commodities, including foodgrains, edible oil, pulses, salt etc; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Functioning of Alarm chains in Trains**

571. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the alarm chains hardly function in most of the trains; and

(b) whether it is a fact that alarm chain was not functioning in the ill-fated 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train which had a fire recently?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In some nominated trains Alarm chains have been blanked off to avoid is misuse.